

## Escalation of violence followed by end of military operations in Southern Damascus

The month of May witnessed violent fighting in Yarmouk and Hajar Al-Aswad in southern Damascus, as Syrian government forces intensified military operations against non-state armed groups (NSAGs), including ISIS, in the area since 19 April. The remaining number of Palestine refugees (about 6,000) who had stayed in Yarmouk camp until the beginning of the military operations were displaced to neighbouring Yalda, and to a lesser extent to Qadam, leaving the camp almost completely void of residents. Incidents of killing and injuries were reported as people attempted the risky journey toward Yalda through the Ouroba checkpoint. On 21 May 2018, the Government of Syria announced full control of Southern Damascus after reaching agreements with NSAGs to evacuate the area. One week later, on 28 May 2018 UNRWA emergency team was granted access to Yalda where a preliminary needs assessment was conducted.

## FOOD, NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI) & SHELTER:

64,327 food parcels were distributed to 122,776 Palestine refugees through regular distribution and 2,822 individuals displaced from Eastern Ghouta and Yarmouk. 3,110 individuals in collective shelters and persons displaced from Eastern Ghouta and Yarmouk received non-food items. The majority of IDPs (1,455) residing in UNRWA-run collective shelters have vacated the shelters by end of May. Only 3 families consisting of elderly refugees remain.

- 15 distribution centres
- 64,327 food parcels benefiting
- 122,776 Palestine refugees through distribution centres and
- 2,822 individuals displaced from Eastern Ghouta and Yarmouk

## CASH ASSISTANCE:

A total of 241,864 individuals received cash assistance through the second regular cash distribution round. In addition, 2,822 Palestine refugees (830 families) displaced from Yarmouk (765 families) and Eastern Ghouta (65 families) benefited from a one-time payment of US\$ 70 per family.

- US\$ 70/family
- was distributed to Palestine refugees displaced from Yarmouk and Eastern Ghouta

## EDUCATION:

UNRWA hosted 207 9<sup>th</sup> grade students from Lebanon (115) and Yarmouk (92) in Damascus to help them write their national exam. The students were provided with accommodation, transportation, and food; in addition to psychosocial and educational support.

- 207 9<sup>th</sup> grade students from Lebanon and Yarmouk
- 118 girls
- 89 boys

## HEALTH:

A total of 62,172 health consultations (25,699 males and 36,473 females) were provided to Palestine refugee patients at 24 UNRWA health facilities across Syria, and one mobile clinic.

- 24 health centres and points
- 36,473 consultations for women
- 25,699 consultations for men

## PROTECTION:

UNRWA conducted awareness raising sessions on explosive remnants of war (ERW) and on child protection for 1,410 children and their parents in UNRWA schools in Sbeineh and Khan Esheih. Psychosocial support activities were facilitated for 1,468 students, 31 persons with disabilities, 43 care providers, and 130 elderly persons in Neirab camp.

- 1,410 children and their parents participated in awareness sessions in Sbeineh and Khan Esheih
- 1,468 students benefited from psychosocial support activities in Neirab camp

## LIVELIHOODS (MICROFINANCE & TVET):

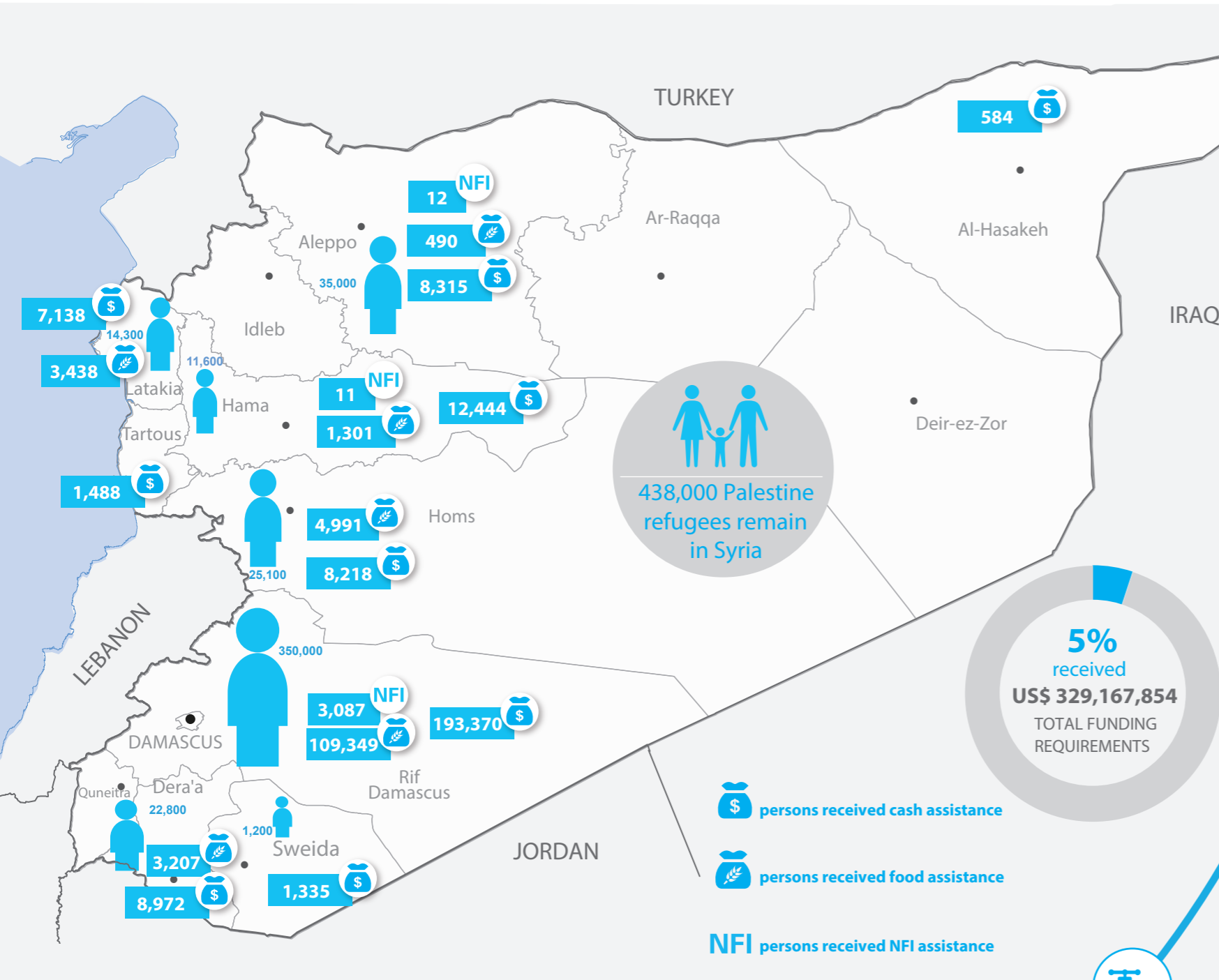
77 students (55 females and 22 males) completed short-term vocational courses during the month of May. 942 loans (310 females and 632 males) were provided by the Microfinance Department benefiting 3,203 Palestine refugees and Syrians.

- 77 graduated from short-term vocational courses
- 942 loans; 33 per cent women

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

UNRWA provided Palestine refugees, including those displaced from Eastern Ghouta and Yarmouk with 12,647 items of WASH assistance (including 1,580 hygiene kits, 9,179 diapers, 1,238 sanitary napkins, 610 baby kits, and 40 Jerry cans).

- 1,580 hygiene kits
- 9,179 baby and adult diapers
- 1,238 sanitary napkins
- 610 baby kits



**Syria**

**438,000** Palestine refugees

48% men | 52% women | 36% children

- 58%** of refugees are internally displaced
- 95%** of refugees are in need of sustained humanitarian assistance
- 13%** of refugees are trapped in hard-to-reach and besieged areas